Amendments to the Claims

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior listings and versions of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims

1. **(Currently Amended)** A mechanical support for a drainage device of a filter unit adapted to be mounted on said mechanical support wherein said mechanical support comprises: (1) a reception head including a reception surface and an external surface portion, wherein said reception head is adapted to receive said filter unit; ~~(1)~~ (2) a passage, one end of which discharges externally of ~~a~~ said reception surface facing a membrane provided in the filter unit and the other end of which discharges onto said reception surface; ~~and (2)~~ (3) selectively operable closure means, movable between a first position to close said passage and a second position to open said passage, wherein said selectively operable means comprises a valve adapted to slide in a bore which discharges onto ~~an~~ said external surface portion of ~~a~~ said reception head; and (4) ~~to drive~~ a driver device adapted to bear against said valve to drive it in translation into said first position or into said second position, ~~said valve in translation between said first position and said second position~~ wherein said passage is opened or closed by operating said valve from outside said reception head.

2. **(Canceled)**

3. **(Previously Presented)** The mechanical support according to claim 1, wherein said support further comprises a suction duct that discharges onto said reception surface, thereby to aspirate a liquid substance contained in said filter unit through said membrane.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The mechanical support according to claim 1, wherein said mechanical support further comprises ~~a reception head adapted to receive said filter unit and~~ first connecting means~~;~~ and a head support including second connecting means, said reception head being adapted to be mounted on said head support

so that the first connecting means and the second connecting means cooperate with each other.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The mechanical support according to claim 4, wherein said first connecting means is formed by ~~said reception head has~~ a cylindrically symmetric opening in said reception head formed in a portion opposite said reception surface and said second connecting means is formed by ~~to form said first connecting means and in that said head support has~~ a substantially vertical projecting portion in said head support ~~forming said second connecting means~~ and is adapted to cooperate with said opening when mounting said reception head on said head support.

6. **(Previously Presented)** The mechanical support according to claim 4, wherein said reception head and said head support include keying means for locking said first and second connecting means.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The mechanical support according to claim 4, wherein said reception head has a transverse bore adapted to cooperate with a groove formed around said vertical projecting portion, said transverse bore being adapted to receive key means comprising a rod for forming keying means.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The mechanical support according to claim 3 ~~1~~, wherein said head support includes a suction branch having a first end adapted to be connected to said suction duct of said reception head and a second end adapted to be connected to a suction pump.

9. **(Currently Amended)** The mechanical support according to claim 1, wherein said ~~support includes a~~ driver device is adapted to take up a position opposite said external surface portion ~~and to bear against said valve to drive it in translation into said first position or into said second position~~.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The mechanical support according to claim 9 wherein said driver device includes a solenoid whose core is adapted to drive said valve.

11. **(Currently Amended)** A reception head comprising a reception surface and adapted to receive a filter unit, wherein said reception head comprises ~~comprising~~: (1) a passage, one end of which discharges externally of ~~a~~ said reception surface and the other end of which discharges internally of said reception surface; (2) selectively operable means for closing said passage, movable between a first position to close said passage and a second position to open said passage, wherein said selectively operable means comprises a valve adapted to slide in a bore which discharges onto an external surface portion of ~~a~~ said reception head and wherein the valve is operated from outside of said reception head ~~to drive said valve in translation between said first position and said second position~~; (3) a cylindrically symmetric opening formed in a portion opposite said reception surface; and (4) a transverse bore adapted to cooperate with said opening, said transverse bore being adapted to receive key means comprising a rod for forming keying means.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The mechanical support of claim 7, wherein the rod comprises one portion comprising a section substantially equal to the section of said transverse bore and a second portion comprising an elongate groove.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The mechanical support of claim 11, wherein the rod comprises one portion comprising a section substantially equal to the section of said transverse bore and a second portion comprising an elongate groove.

14. **(Previously Presented)** A mechanical support for a drainage device of a filter unit adapted to be mounted on said mechanical support wherein said mechanical support comprises: (1) a passage, one end of which discharges externally of a reception surface facing a membrane provided in the filter unit and the other end of which discharges onto said reception surface; (2) selectively operable closure means, movable between a first position to close said passage and a second position to open said passage,

wherein said selectively operable means comprises a valve adapted to slide in a bore which discharges onto an external surface portion of a reception head to drive said valve in translation between said first position and said second position; and (3) a reception head comprising a transverse bore adapted to cooperate with a groove formed around said vertical projecting portion, said transverse bore being adapted to receive key means comprising a rod for forming keying means.